Abſtract of the BILL for the Encouragement of Seamen, to enter voluntarily into His Majeſty's Service.

CUP 21 g 31/52

ARTICLE I.

EVERY Seaman who enters voluntarily with a Commiſſion Officer, Juſtice of the Peace, or Mayor of a Town, and appears within Fourteen Days on board the Ship, if the Diſtance be within One Hundred Miles, Twenty Days if more, and Thirty Days in *North-Britain*, ſhall begin Wages from the Time of his Entry, have Conduct Money, and receive Two Months Wages Advance before the Ship goes to Sea.

II.

Every voluntary Seaman ſhall have Three Shillings a Month, and every ordinary Seaman One Shilling more Wages than he has now.

III.

When a Ship has been Eight Months in Pay, Two Months Wages ſhall be paid to the Voluntiers; after Fourteen Months, Two Months more; and ſo every Six months till the final Pay of the Ship.

IV.

When a voluntary Seaman dies, his Wages ſhall be forthwith paid to his Executors, without ſtaying for the Pay of the Ship.

V.

Voluntary Seamen ſhall never be turned over into other Ships, but in Caſes of extream Neceſſity, and then they ſhall not ſerve in worſe Qualities than they had in the firſt Ship, and (beſides being paid all their Wages which they have a Right to by a former Law) they ſhall have Two Months Wages advanced before the Ship goes to Sea.

VI.

All the Preferments and petty Offices in the Ship, as Mates, Midſhipmen, and ſo downwards, ſhall be conferred on voluntary Seamen only, and ſuch as actually do the Duty of their Places.

VII.

When the Ship is paid off, any voluntary Seaman may have a Protection, for one Month from the Preſs, if there be one on Foot, and he deſires it.

VIII.

If a Ship is fitted out at one Port, and laid up in another diſtant Port, the voluntary Seamen who live near the firſt Port, ſhall be allowed Conduct Money Home.

IX.

Seamen who Deſert, ſhall forfeit no Wages but what are due in the Ship they Deſerted from.

X.

All Bills of Sale of Seamens Wages ſhall be void in Law, and the Treaſurer ſhall pay all Wages to the Parties themſelves, or to their lawful Attorneys, or their Executors.

XI.

All Letters of Attorney ſhall be witneſſed either by the Captain of the Ship, a Clerk of the Checque at any of the Dock Yards, or the Mayor of a Town, or a Notary Publick in *London* and *Middleſex*. *Weſtminſter*.

XII.

Seamen may diſpoſe of their Tickets by Sale, which ſhall be paid to the lawful Purchaſer, even though the Party deſerts afterwards.

XIII.

Seamen applying for their Wages after the Ships Books are made up and cloſed, ſhall have Tickets made out for their Wages, payable in a Month.

XIV.

If a Land Officer inliſts a Seaman, upon Proof made that he is ſuch, he ſhall be diſcharged.

XV.

Governors, Miniſters, Conſuls, and Merchants abroad, ſhall ſubſiſt poor ſtraggling Seamen, at the Rate of 6 *d.* a Day, and ſend them Home by the firſt Opportunity; and Maſters of Merchant Ships ſhall bring them Home, and be allowed 6 *d.* a Day for their Paſſage and Proviſions.

XVI.

Foreign Seamen ſerving Three Years voluntarily in His Majeſty's Ships, ſhall have the ſame Privileges as natural born *Engliſhmen*.

XVII.

Seamen who ſerve voluntarily Twenty Years, and are not under Fifty Five Years of Age, ſhall be protected for ever from the Preſs, ſhall be free from all Pariſh Offices, and ſhall be admitted into *Greenwich* Hoſpital preferable to any others.